

## **Tips from the Field: Finding a Site**

“Try to use a group that you already have affiliation with (or know a kid in). Also find a pre-established group of kids. Find a group that can work with your team’s schedule instead of trying to schedule your team around the group. Find a central location to meet. Have an idea of when and how often you will meet before going in. Although you may need to add or delete dates.”

~**Anonymous**, Intergenerational Innovations

“Approach teachers but have your proposal ready, and make it relevant, before you speak with them about having some of their class time to facilitate activities.”

~**Maureen Nickerson**, Ready\*Corps, Spokane Public Schools

“It’s good to have one or two people in charge of finding a site versus everyone digging around for a site because if you can pinpoint just a few to choose from, it’s easier to make a decision that will suit everyone’s needs. Also, alternative schools or school focused on citizen-building in their students are great targets for the curriculum.”

~**Bryce Hughes**, Campus Compact

“Finding a site was the most difficult part of the planning process. It is best to use contacts that you will inevitably have within your program. The best idea, though, is to start early in the year. Even if you plan on facilitating the CEP in late spring, identify your site BEFORE the winter break!”

~**Joshua Kurz**, Campus Compact/ Campus Connection

“Look for an already established group of students so that it’s a “get to know the AmeriCorps” environment as opposed to a “get to know these weird adults and these other kids at the same time.” This helps a lot as far as the kids being open to suggestions and they are more likely to be helpful. Lots of schools have programs that have objectives similar to the *Roadmap*, seek out those programs for collaboration.”

~**Jesse Smith**, Campus Compact Campus Connections

“Having a partner who is really excited about the project and supportive is the most important. Also working with a program that ensures that the student’s attendance is regular is extremely helpful.”

~**Betsy Foley**, Campus Compact Campus Connections

One challenge frequently cited is inconsistent youth attendance. Depending on the partner, one idea to boost attendance could be to concentrate the timeframe of the curriculum. Instead of doing a seven week experience, you can have an intensive three to four weeks so that other conflicts don’t hinder attendance. Also, find programs that have built in incentives for attendance or come up with your own.